

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5949

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, TGEN, RO
SUBJECT: U.S.-ROMANIAN SCIENCE EXCHANGE: NSF-NCST PROGRAM

REF: STATE 215455

1. AT AUGUST 25 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR BOGDAN, AMBASSADOR MADE POINTS CONTAINED PARAS 2, 3 AND 5 OF REFTEL CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF NSF-NCST COOPERATIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM.
2. AMBASSADOR BOGDAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FORTH-COMING POSITION ON PART OF NSF AND DEPARTMENT VIS-A-VIS RENEWAL OF MOU AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PROBLEMS HAVE DIMINISHED PROGRAM'S VALUE TO CERTAIN EXTENT. HE UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY MESSAGE IN REFTEL TO THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE PROGRAM.
3. AMBSSADOR BOGDAN SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT CONTAINED LINE A, PARA 5, REFTEL, QUOTE, PRDICATE FURTHER COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PLANNING ON DEMONSTRATED PERFORMANCE ON THOSE PROJECTS STILL UNDERWAY. END QUOTE.

WHEN IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT FUTURE OF JOINT RESEARCH TYPE COOPERATION WOULD DEPEND TO LARGE EXTENT ON DEMONSTRATED ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE IN BRINGING PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, AMBSSADOR
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BOGDAN EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THIS WAS PERHAPS TOO NARROW A VIEW, AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REESTABLISH JOINT RESEARCH ON SOUND, REALISTIC BASIS WAS BEING MISSED BY NSF AND DEPARTMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT A NEW INSTITUTE FOR CELL BIOLOGY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN BUCHAREST WITH COLLABORATION OF PROFESSOR PALADE AT YALE. THIS INSTITUTE AND SCIENTISTS ENGAGED WITH

IT ENJOY THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SUPPORT. IT HAD BEEN HOPED THAT SOME JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS IN CELL BIOLOGY AREA COULD BE INCLUDED UNDER THE NSF-NCST PROGRAM, AND RESEARCH PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR PRESENTATION TO NSF WHICH WERE PRECEDENT SETTING IN THAT THEY INCLUDE DETAILED WORK PLANS AND TRAVEL SCHEDULES. UNFORTUNATELY, NSF HAD DELCINED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS IN MAY.

4. AMBASSADOR BOGDAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. TEAM WHICH PREPARED TO COME TO BUCHAREST IN OCTOBER TO NEGOTIATE NEW MOU WOULD ALSO AGREE TO DISCUSS AT LEAST THIS ONE EXCEPTION TO GENERAL PORPOSITION THAT NEW PROJECTS SHOULD FLOW FROM WORKSHOPS. HE POINTED OUT THAT BY INCLUDING ONE OR TWO TIGHTLY STRUCTURED JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS LIKE THAT IN CELL BIOLOGY UNDER NEW AGREEMENT, THEY COULD SERVE AS DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND STANDARD OF COMPARISON BY WHICH OTHER FUTURE PROJECTS SHOULD BE JUDGED. IN EFFECT, THIS WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT AND QUICKER WAY TO ARRIVE AT REMEDIES FOR PROBLEMS WHICH NSF HAS HIGHLIGHTED THAN WORKSHOP PROCESS ALONE. NOTE: SCIATT IS PLANNING VISIT TO NEWLY ESTABLISHED INSTITUE FOR CELL BIOLOGY IN NEXT WEEK OR TWO AND WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND AND ASSESSMENT OF INSTI-TUTE AND AMBASSADOR BOGDAN'S PROPOSAL FOLLOWING VISIT. END NOTE.
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5. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO AMBASSADOR BOGDAN THAT IT IS EXCEPTIONALLY DIFFICULT TO MAKE LOGICAL CASE FOR GRANTING EXCEPTION TO PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT ROLE, WHEN WE ARE CONTINUING TO EXPERIENCE SAME OLD PROBLEMS OF TRAVEL AND INADQUATE COMMUNICATIONS WITH PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. CASE OF TRAVEL OF PROFESSOR CONSTANTINESCU AND HIS MUCH DELAYED RESEARCH PROJECT WITH PROFESSOR LING OF RPI WAS CITED AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF PROBLEM OF HIGH FINANCIAL AND STAFF COSTS INVOLVED IN GETTING ONE ROMANIAN SCIENTIST TO THE U.S. TO COMPLETE PROJECT UNDERTAKEN UNDER CONTRACT AND WHICH PRESUMABLY BEARS IMPRIMATUR OF GOR. AFTER FIVE MONTHS OF UNREMITTING EFFORT ON PART OF EMBASSY, IT APPEARS THAT PROFESSOR CONSTANTINESCU HAS REACHED FINAL APPROVAL STAGE FOR TRAVEL. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THIS WILL BE GRANTED. MOREOVER, IF HE DOES NOT TRAVEL WITHIN NEXT WEEK, HE WILL BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE HIS SCIENTIFIC VISIT BEFORE HIS CLASSES RESUME IN LATE SEPTEMBER. SHOULD HIS VISIT NOT BE APPROVED, PROJECT WILL BECOME NUMBER 13 OUT OF 25 PROJECTS TERMINATED SHORT OF COMPLETION. THUS,

THERE IS DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ONGOING PROJECTS AND FUTURE OF PROJECT TYPE COOPERATION. AMBASSADOR BOGDAN STATED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF CONSTANTINESCU TRAVEL AND WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER.
AGGREY

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